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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

REFORMED MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

AS REVISED AND ADOPTED,

DECEMBER 12th, 1836.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY J. C. KELLEY,

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The Goddess of Wisdom, trampling upon the Mineral, and Depletive System of Medicine, holding in her hand, a SCROLL, with the Doctrines of the Reformed Practice. The SUN of Botany arising, casting its refulgent beams to dispel the dark mists of ERROR, and IGNORANCE, which have existed since the days of Paracelsus; and the Temple of Knowledge, elevated on the imperishable Rock of Experience.

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PREAMBLE.

A NUMBER of Physicians, having been convinced from experience and observation, of the awful and deleterious effects of the mineral and depletive system of Physic and Surgery, whereby thousands are annually slain, or rendered miserable objects for life; and having tested the efficacy and superiority of a scientific Vegetable System, as founded by W. Beach, M. D.; and availing themselves of the rights and privileges belonging to them as citizens of of the United States' of America; they, accordingly, in the year 1830, united, and formed a Reformed Medical Society of the United States, for the purpose of counteracting the evils of a fashionable Mineral System, and extending the blessings of an Improved Practice, upon Botanical and Scientifical Principles. A Constitution was formed and adopted for the government of this Society.

As the benefits arising from the superior practice pursued by the members of this Society, became generally known, physicians of all orders, not prejudiced against it, and who really and sincerely desired to lessen the sufferings of their fellow creatures, boldly stepped forth and embraced it, even at the risk of being expelled from their former Medical Societies; and the founder of the System, received honors and gold medals from many of the crowned heads in Europe, together with degrees and honors, from their most distinguished Physicians, in token of their approbation of its superiority and usefulness.

Wishing, therefore, to extend this Reformed System, throughout our beloved country, and as rapidly as possible; and being determined that all the members of this Society shall be eminently and scientifically useful, superior to physicians of every other grade, a meeting was held, in which it was resolved to revise and alter the

Constitution, in order that the above objects might be accomplished. A Committee, composed of Drs. J. C. Kelley, J. King, and H. D. Sheppard, were appointed for that purpose, who presented the following revisions and alterations to the Society, and which were unanimously adopted, on the 12th day of December, 1836.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called, and known by the name of the "REFORMED MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES."

ARTICLE II.

The object and design of this Society, shall be to disseminate, maintain, and inculcate, a Reformed System of Practice, in Physic, and Surgery, and upon Vegetable or Botanical principles; and in conformity with the doctrines laid down in the printed work, first published in the city of New-York, in the year 1832, entitled, the "American Practice of Medicine," by W. Beach, M. D.

ARTICLE III.

The Reformed Medical Society of the United States shall be composed of such Physicians and Surgeons, as shall have regularly graduated through a County, and State Society, and shall have come duly recommended to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States; and who shall have passed an examination before the Professors of said Society, and have been duly admitted as members of that body, according to the modes prescribed by this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV.

All Officers of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, and of its Sub-Societies, shall be elected by ballot.

ARTICLE V.

The Officers of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary

Treasurer, and Professors for the different Branches of Medicine, and such other officers as the Society, in its progress, may require, and so determine, who shall hold their offices for three years, or from one General Convention of the Society to another, and until others are chosen.

ARTICLE VI.

The President shall be the Presiding Officer of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, and shall preside at all general Meetings of the Society; exercise a general supervision over the different State and County Societies: present before the General Convention, at their general Meetings, a full and detailed account of the progress of the Society, in the different sections of the Union; the success attending the Reformed Practice of Medicine; and every particular, both as it regards the practice, new remedies, financial concerns, regulations, &c., which it may be requisite that the General Convention should act, or deliberate upon. He shall also see that the Constitution is adhered to, and that the laws and regulations adopted under it, are observed by the different subordinate Societies. He shall report all cases of mal-practice, unjust decisions, appeals, &c., that may be brought up from the State or County Societies. In the General Convention, he shall have the power of appointing the different Committees, viz: on Finance, Publications, Dispensaries, Hospitals, Schools and Colleges, Theory and Practice of Physic, Surgery, &c., and such other committees as the Society may require. He shall grant and sign Diplomas for such as shall appear, duly qualified before him. He shall preserve the rules of order in the Convention when in session, put the different questions upon each regular motion, determine the yeas and nays; and in case of an equal division, give the casting vote.

ARTICLE VII.

The Vice President shall act as associate counsellor with the President, in all cases, where it may be deemed requisite. And in case of death, resignation or other inability of the President, he shall act in that capacity, and be governed by the same laws and regulations, and bound to perform the same duties.

ARTICLE VIII.

In case of the disqualification of both the President and Vice President, by death, or otherwise, to preside over the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, the Professors of that body, may appoint one of their number to administer the government, until the next General Convention; who (when thus appointed,) shall be subject to the same rules and regulations, and bound to perform the same duties, as are required of the President.

ARTICLE IX.

The President of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, in co-operation with the Vice President, shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in any department of the Society, during its recess, and until another shall be duly elected to fill such vacancy.

ARTICLE X.

The President, by and with the consent of the Vice President, shall have the power to convene this Society for any special purpose, provided it should be deemed of sufficient importance to require it; and in such case, he shall issue his order to the Secretary for such purpose, stating the particular object for which the meeting is thus called, and the Secretary, shall cause notice thereof to be sent to each member, stating the object of such meeting, and when, and where, such meeting shall be held.

ARTICLE XI.

The duty of the Secretary, shall be to keep a faithful record of all the proceedings of this Society, from time to time; to sign such orders upon the Treasurer for appropriations that may be made by the Society; to give certified copies from under his hand, of any resolution which may have passed the General Convention, to any member of the Society requiring it, or to the Governor, or Chairman, of a State or County Society; and sign the Diplomas of such Physicians, as may have been regularly approved by the Professors.

ARTICLE XII.

The duty of the Treasurer, shall be to receive all monies belonging to the Society, and pay it upon the order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President, together with the copy of the resolution passed by the Society for its appropriation, as no monies shall be

paid out of the funds belonging to this association, unless such appropriations shall be previously made by the Society. He shall also keep regular books of accounts, in which he shall enter the amount of the receipts of all monies, and likewise their disbursements, which books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the President, or any other officer of the Society for their investigation. He shall also report to the General Convention of the Society, at each General Meeting of that body, the actual state of the finances.

ARTICLE XIII.

The duty of each Professor, shall be to examine every individual in their respective branches, who shall come up duly authorized to make application for examination from a State Society, and if approved, they shall respectively sign a Diploma for him.

ARTICLE XIV.

This Society shall have the power to make laws for the government of its own members, and subordinate Societies, provided, they are not contrary to the principles laid down in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XV.

A General Convention, or Meeting of this Society, shall be held once in three years, at such time and place, as a majority of the members at a General Convention shall determine; and in case such resolution should not be made, it shall be the duty of the President to issue his order, (or direct the Secretary so to do,) to every member of the Society, stating the time and place, where such Convention shall be held. At which Convention, all business appertaining to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, or, that may be referred to them from a County or State Society, and all other matters that may arise under this Constitution, shall be presented for their deliberation and final action; and at such General Convention, a majority of members present, shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE XVI.

Whenever a Physician, of a County Medical Society of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, residing in any County, shall desire to form a County Society, it shall be lawful for him to appoint a time and place of meeting, and give notice to

those Physicians who may reside within such County, stating his object, the time and place of Meeting; at which meeting, they shall proceed to organize, by electing their Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Examiners, for such County Medical Society, and send a copy of their proceedings, duly certified, and signed by the Chairman, and Secretary, to the Governor, or Secretary of the State Society of the State, wherein such County Society is about to be formed, whose duty it shall be to present it before the General Meeting of the State Medical Society, for their consideration. And if no good cause shall appear against their admission, they shall be admitted as a County Medical Society of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States of the State in which they reside, bearing the name of the County in which such Society is formed, and the State Society shall so record it on their journals, and furnish them with a certificate signed by the Governor and Secretary, setting forth such facts. And in case there should be no regularly organized State Society, within such State, then, such records and proceedings shall be forwarded to the President of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, who shall proceed to lay it before that body for their deliberation and action, in like manner as is required by a State Society.

ARTICLE XVII.

County Medical Societies shall hold their meetings as often as once in each month, at such time and place, as a majority of the Society shall determine; at which meetings, in addition to their pecuniary and other concerns, each member shall report the number of cases he has attended, and their nature; his mode of treatment and the success attending it; the remedies he has applied, how applied, and all thereto relating; also any new discovery in medicine he may have made, in order, that every error in practice, or the inutility of any medicine made use of, may be detected, and that every member of the Society, may thereby become eminently, scientifically, and experimentally useful in the cause of suffering humanity.

ARTICLE XVIII.

When there shall exist two or more County Societies within any State, it shall be lawful for either of such County Societies, or their officers by authority of such Society, to give notice to the other county societies within such State, of their determination to form a State Medical Society, which notice shall contain the time and place, where such Convention shall be held, and which notice shall be furnished at least three months previous to such Meeting ; and prior to holding such Convention, each County Society, at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, shall elect from their own body, not more than four Delegates to attend the Convention to organize a State Society, and furnish each Delegate so elected, with a certificate of his election signed by the Chairman and Secretary ; and which Convention when met, shall appoint a President and Secretary for the purpose of organizing, when they shall proceed to receive the certificates of the delegates to such Convention, and being approved, each name shall be registered in order, as members of the State Medical Society of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, of the State in which such Society is organized. They shall then proceed to elect a Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and Censors for the various branches of Medicine, who shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are chosen.

ARTICLE XIX.

All State Medical Societies shall hold a general meeting once in each year, for the transaction of business ; the time and place of meeting, to be determined by its own body.

ARTICLE XX.

Every State, or County Society, shall have the privilege and right, to establish such schools or colleges for medical instruction, as they may deem expedient ; likewise to erect Hospitals, Dispensaries, &c., for charitable or benevolent purposes.

ARTICLE XXI.

Any individual of good moral character, who may have studied with a Physician of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, and having received a certified statement from such Physician to that effect, to the examiners of the county Medical Society

of the county in which he resides; and being duly examined by such examiners, with respect to his abilities for the practice of physic and surgery, and being approved by them, and signing the following Certificate, to be deposited in the archives of the Society,

(This is to Certify, that I, A. B. of the County of———, in the State of———, have read and examined the Constitution of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, and I do hereby approve, and by this, my act, do adopt said Constitution, and will endeavor to the best of my abilities, to maintain, and be governed by the doctrines and laws for the government and practice of said Society, therein set forth,) shall receive a diploma signed by the Chairman Secretary, and Examiners of the County Medical Society, which will entitle him to the first degree in medicine, bearing the title of M. D. and he shall be admitted a member of such County Medical Society.

ARTICLE XXII.

A physician being duly authorized to practice physic and surgery, by a County Medical Society, shall have the right to present himself with his Diploma, before the State Medical Society, and pass an examination before the Censors of the State Society; and if duly approved, he shall be admitted a member, and shall receive a Diploma from such State Medical Society, signed by the Governor, Secretary, and Censors thereof, which shall entitle him to the 2d degree in medicine, bearing the title of M. D. S. M. S., and his name shall be recorded as such, upon its journals.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Any physician being duly anthorized to practice physic and surgery, by a State Medical Society, may make application to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, for admission as a member, by presenting his diploma from the State Society, before that body; and passing an examination before the Professors of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, if he shall be approved by them, he shall be admitted as a member, and his name shall be recorded in the books of the Society as such, and he shall receive a Diploma signed by the President, Secretary, and Profes-

sors of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, which shall entitle him to the 3d degree in Medicine, bearing the title of M. D. R. M. S. U. S.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Every Physician in this Society, whether he shall have obtained the 1st, 2d, or 3d, degree of Medicine, shall have his name recorded on the journals of the County Medical Society, of the County in which he resides, as a member, and be subject to all the rules and regulations of that body. The Trial of a Physician for mal-practice, immoral, or improper conduct, or other misdemeanor, shall originate and take place in a County Medical Society, but from which decision he may appeal to the State Society, if a member of that body. He may likewise appeal from a State Society to the General Convention of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, provided, he be a member of that body; but, before the State Society, or the General Convention of the United States Society, no other evidence will be admitted, than the records and proceedings in such such case, before the County Medical Society, and which the General Convention shall either revoke, or confirm, and their decision shall be final.

ARTICLE XXV.

No Legislative body of this Society, acting under this Constitution, shall consist of more than one hundred members; and when it shall exceed that number, that department in which it occurs is hereby authorised to adopt that course as shall give a fair and equal representation to all concerned; excepting the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, and they shall so regulate the different State Societies from time to time, as to give each State a fair and equal representation.

ARTICLE XXVI.

No individual, who has not obtained the third degree of medicine in this Society, and is not a member in full standing, shall be elected to fill the office of President, Vice President, or Governor of a State Society.

ARTICLE XXVII.

Every State, or County Society, is authorised to make their own By-Laws and Regulations, for the government of their respective bodies, provided, they are not contrary to the spirit and intent of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

Difficulties, grievances, &c., may occur in State and County Societies, for which no remedy may be provided in this Constitution; in such case, it can only be referred to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, who shall have full power to act and pass their final decision on such matter.

ARTICLE XXIX.

All new, and approved remedies in medicine, that may be discovered in any department of this Society, must be communicated to the President of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, whose duty it shall be to give it immediate publicity throughout the whole Society.

ARTICLE XXX.

Physicians and Surgeons, residing out of the United States of America, may be admitted as honorary and corresponding members.

ARTCLE XXXI.

All such physicians as have belonged to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, previous to the revisal of its Constitution, (Dec.1836,) who have duly studied the practice of physic and surgery, according to the principles taught by that Society, and who have regularly received their diplomas; and who shall on, or before, the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, (1838) furnish the President of this Society, with a certificate, signed with their names, certifying their approval and adoption of said revised constitution, and agreeing to abide by the articles therein set forth, shall, provided no good cause should appear to the contrary, be recognised as members of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, and their names shall be recorded on the journals, and they shall thereby, be entitled to the third degree in medicine as authorized by this Constitution.

ARTICLE XXXII.

No addition, amendment, or alteration, shall be made in this Constitution, unless two thirds of the members of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, agree to it.

Done in Convention of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, this twelfth day of December, eighteen hundred and thirty-six.

The following Officers were then elected.

PRESIDENT,
W. BEACH, M. D.

VICE PRESIDENT,
J. F. DANIEL LOBSTEIN, M. D.

SECRETARY.
GEORGE W. CHEVERS, M. D.

TREASURER,
JOHN C. KELLEY, M. D.

CALVIN PRESTON, M. D. *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.*

W. BEACH, M. D. *Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Surgery.*

J. F. DANIEL LOBSTEIN, M. D. *Professor of Obstetrics, and diseases of women and children, and lecturer on Medical Formulary, or the art of writing prescriptions in form, a course which has never been adopted in this country.*

GEORGE W. CHEVERS, M. D. *Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.*

JOHN KING, M. D. *Professor of Medical Botany.*

JOHN C. KELLEY, M. D. *Professor of Chemistry.*

The following resolutions were also adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That every person receiving a Diploma, entitling him to the third degree in medicine, of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of twenty five dollars.

Resolved, That each member of a County Medical Society, shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer, of such County Medical Society, the sum of twelve and a half cents, Monthly, which shall be forwarded by him, to the Treasurer, of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, semiannually.

Resolved, That the officers of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, shall hold a meeting for the transaction of such business as may be necessary to deliberate upon, on the first Mondays, in January, April, July, and October of each year, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of three members, to devise ways and means, for raising funds, &c ; and for the purpose of such publications, and other purposes, as the officers of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States shall from time to time deem expedient for the cause of Medical Reform.

Resolved, That the proceedings, presented by a committee, from the New-York County Medical Society, be accepted, and that we acknowledge said Society, as the New-York County Medical Society of the State of New-York.

Resolved. That if any physician practising physic and surgery, under the first, second or third degree of medicine, of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, be molested, or prosecuted in his practice, in any section of the Union, it shall be the duty of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, to see that his rights and privileges are defended, by carrying his suit, if necessary to the highest Court in the United States, and they shall also furnish the expenses for the same.

Resolved, That Dr. John C. Kelley, be hereby appointed general agent, publisher and lecturer to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, for the dissemination of the Reformed System of Medicine, throughout the Union.

Resolved, That the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, adjourn this General Convention until the 1st Tuesday in January, 1839.

ORGANIZATION

OF THE

NEW-YORK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY,

OF THE

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

Notice having been given, by Dr. J. C. Kelley, according to the constitution of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, to the physicians and surgeons, of the City and County of New-York, that a meeting would be held on Friday Evening the 16th of Dec. 1836, at 7 P. M. for the purpose of organizing a County Medical Society; in pursuance thereof, a meeting was held at the United States Infirmary, No. 95 Eldridge-street, Dr. J. C. Kelley was called to the Chair, and Dr. G. W. Chevers, appointed Secretary.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we proceed to an election of officers, when the following gentlemen were elected:

Chairman,
JOHN C. KELLEY, M. D.
Secretary,
GEORGE W. CHEVERS, M. D.
Treasurer,
JAMES J. VERE, M. D.
Board of Examiners,
W. BEACH, M. D.
J. F. DANIEL LOBSTEIN, M. D.
J. KING, M. D.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, to form By-Laws, for the regulation of this Society. Drs. W. Beach, J. King, and H. D. Sheppard, were appointed on said committee.

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed to present the proceedings of this meeting, to the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, in order that they might approve of the same, and acknowledge this as a County Society, under their supervision. Drs. W. Beach, and J. F. Lobstein, were appointed on said committee.

Resolved, That we adjourn until Wednesday, Dec. 21st, 1836, at 6 o'clock, P. M.

We hereby certify, the above to be a true copy of the proceedings, for the purpose of organizing a County Medical Society, for the City and County of New-York, under the Constitution of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States.

J. C. KELLEY, *Chairman.*

G. W. CHEVERS, *Secretary.*

Met pursuant to adjournment—The committee appointed to present the proceedings of the last meeting, presented the following Certificate from the Reformed Medical Society of the United States.

"In accordance with the Constitution of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, we hereby certify that we approve of the proceedings of the New York County Medical Society, and recognize said Society, as the New-York County Medical Society of the State of New York."

(Signed) W. BEACH, *Pres't.*

(Signed) G. W. CHEVERS, *Sec'y.*

Persons who wish to attend the Lectures of the Professors of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, may apply, by letter, post paid, to either of the Officers, named in this Constitution; and due notice will be given when the Lectures will commence.